From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG 54)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
      (2) Chronology
      (3) Narrative
      (4) Commanding Officer's Biography

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).
Command Composition and Organization

a. USS FORD (FFG 54) is the forty-eighth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates; the Navy's largest destroyer class built since World War II. Her mission is to provide in-depth anti-air, anti-surface and anti-subsurface protection for military and merchant shipping and to ensure continuous use of the sea lanes of communication for the United States and her allies.

b. The Combat Systems aboard utilize a computer command and control system to integrate the ship's sensors and weapons. Her weapons include surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, a close-in weapons system, anti-submarine torpedoes and the LAMPS MK III helicopter.

c. The propulsion system is a computer controlled gas turbine power plant which utilizes jet engines similar to those found on commercial airliners. FORD'S propulsion system can be "brought on the line" in less than five minutes.

d. Despite the advanced systems aboard, the heart of the ship is the crew. Each member has been highly trained in his particular area of expertise so that he can either operate, monitor or repair all shipboard systems. FORD'S crew is composed of 15 officers, 14 chief petty officers and 177 enlisted men.

e. In March 1987, FORD was reassigned from Commander, Surface Squadron ONE to Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. While remaining under the administrative control of COMDESRON NINE throughout the year, FORD was assigned operationally to Commander, Middle East Force as a member of the Joint Task Force, Middle East from September - December 1987. On 23 May 87, CDR J.D. Price relieved CDR J.F. Eckler as Commanding Officer of FORD. A two plane LAMPS MK III detachment, HSL 45 Det 2 embarked in FORD on 17 August for a six month Persian Gulf deployment.

Enclosure (1)
CHRONOLOGY

1-19 Jan: Leave/Upkeep Period inport Long Beach
15-16 Jan: Medical Readiness Exam
20-23 Jan: Command Inspection by COMSURFRON ONE including:
   CMS Inspection
   Physical Security Inspection
   Welfare & Recreation Fund Inspection
26-30 Jan: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's - Engineering and Combat Systems Training,
   Helicopter Operations
28 Jan: Achieved Helicopter Training Certification Level B
2-8 Feb: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA as Orange Force unit in READIEX 87-2
5-6 Feb: Search and Rescue effort ICO F/V Fish 'n Fool
9-11 Feb: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA as Orange Force unit in Battle Group
   Evaluation (BGE)
12-16 Feb: Inport Long Beach - Naval Station Long Beach RED CELL Security
   Exercise
17-19 Feb: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's for Engineering and Combat Systems Training
23-27 Feb: ASW Phase II Team Trainer
23 Feb: SRBOC Certification
23 Feb - 6 Mar: On-site Calibration
25 Feb: Harpoon Re-Certification
1 Mar: Assigned to COMDESRON NINE
9-12 Mar: Transit to Mazatlan, Mexico with HSL 45 Det 2 and Coast Guard Law
   Enforcement Detachment embarked
13-16 Mar: Visit Mazatlan Mexico
17-20 Mar: Transit to Long Beach, CA
21 Mar - 20 Apr: Inport Long Beach
23-25 Mar: Surface Warfare Training Week
23-26 Mar: Aviation Certification Inspection
26 Mar: 2nd Annual FORD Athletic Competition
2 Apr: Aviation Readiness Evaluation
13-17 Apr: Combat Systems Training - 20B5 Van
17 Apr: Personnel Inspection and Awards Presentation
21-23 Apr: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA's for ECC Drills and Helo Operations
24 Apr: Achieved Helicopter Training Certification Level A
24 Apr: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload
24 Apr - 25 May: Inport Long Beach
2-20 May: Class Maintenance Plan IMAV 2
11-14 May: Link 11 Groom
17 May - 12 Jun: Midshipman Training
18-20 May: Supply Management Inspection
23 May: USS FORD Change of Command Ceremony
26 May: Industrial Hygiene Survey
26 May - 5 Jun: Training Availability in San Diego CA
29 May: Transit Long Beach to San Diego
1-5 Jun: Gas Turbine Engine Inspection
   Combat Systems Refresher Team Training
   KW-46 Installation
6 Jun: Dependents Cruise from San Diego to Long Beach
8 Jun: Ammo Onload at NWS Seal Beach
9-21 Jun: Inport Long Beach

Enclosure (2)
10-11 Jun: Dumbwaiter Improvement Program
14 Jun: Enter drydock at Long Beach Naval Shipyard for fin stabilizer repairs
16-19 Jun: SLQ32 Groom
17 Jun: Undocking, return to NAVSTA Long Beach
22-26 Jun: Underway SOCAL OPAREA's for Combat Systems and Engineering Training and Helicopter Operations
23 Jun: Defense Science Study Group visits FORD
27-30 Jun: Inport Long Beach CA
30 Jun: Pre-Deployment briefings for dependents
1-3 Jul: Transit to Vallejo, CA. Conduct ECC drills and helicopter operations
3-5 Jul: Visit Vallejo, CA for Independence Day celebration
6-9 Jul: Underway in NOCAL OPAREA's
7-8 Jul: Conducted two Standard Missile firings at Pacific Missile Test Center
10-23 Jul: Inport San Diego
13-23 Jul: Training Availability
13-23 Jul: Restricted maintenance availability with USS Cape Cod
14 Jul: Medical Readiness Exam
14 Jul: UNREP Equipment Review
16-17 Jul: Underwater Hull Cleaning/Inspection
16 Jul: Threat Brief by Naval Security Group
16-17 Jul: UNREP Dockside Trainer
20 Jul: ALE-49 Installation
20-22 Jul: ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA)
21 Jul: Ship Store Inspection
21 Jul: Terrorist Threat Brief - NIS
21-22 Jul: ASW Phase III Team Trainer
22 Jul: Intelligence Brief - FITCPAC
23 Jul: OPDEC brief - FLTCORGRU
23 Jul: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA's for ASW Training
24 Jul: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload
24-28 Jul: Inport Long Beach CA
27-31 Jul: Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT)
29 Jul: Underway in SOCAL OPAREA for CSRT
30 Jul - 2 Aug: Inport Long Beach CA
3 Aug: Inport NWS Seal Beach for ammo offload
3 Aug: Enter Todd Shipyard, San Pedro CA
4-13 Aug: Drydocked in synchrolift at Todd Shipyard for Sonar Repairs
14 Aug: Inport NWS Seal Beach for Ammo Onload
13-16 Aug: Inport Long Beach for Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Period
17 Aug: Depart Long Beach for six month deployment to Persian Gulf Rendezvous with USS THACH Embark HSL 45 Det 2 (two planes)
17-21 Aug: Transit to Pearl Harbor
22-23 Aug: Inport Pearl Harbor
22 Aug: CINCPACFLT and COMNAVCENT Briefings
24 Aug - 4 Sep: Transit to Subic Bay RP
28 Aug: Cross International Dateline
29 Aug: CHOP to COMSEVENTHFLT
30 Aug: UNREP with USNS MISPILLION

Enclosure (2)
4-11 Sep: Helicopters Lonewolf 42 and 45 to NAS Cubi Point RP for weapon systems modification

5-10 Sep: Inport Subic Bay RP for voyage repairs and Westpac briefings

9 Sep: CPO Initiation at Subic Bay CPO Club

11-13 Sep: Transit to Singapore

14-15 Sep: Visit Singapore - Sembawang Shipyards

16-19 Sep: Transit to Columbo, Sri Lanka

20 Sep: Brief stop for fuel in Columbo, Sri Lanka

20-25 Sep: Transit Indian Ocean to Gulf of Oman

24 Sep: Unrep with USS KANSAS CITY

25 Sep: CBOP to Commander, Middle East Force. Member of Joint Task Force Middle East

26 Sep: Conducted turnover brief with USS JARRETT (FFG 33) off Fujarah, Oman

27-28 Sep: Underway in Gulf of Oman in company with THACH and RAFF

29 Sep - 1 Oct: In company with RWTZ and THACH, escorted USS RAFF, M/V Patriot and M/V Gus Darnell through Straits of Hormuz to Bahrain

1 Oct: Rendezvous with COMDEASTFOR flagship for briefings. COMDEASTFOR visit.

2-3 Oct: Conduct operations Northern Persian Gulf

4-Oct: Brief stop for fuel and stores in Bahrain

4-5 Oct: Escort M/V Gus Darnell to Straits of Hormuz

6-8 Oct: Conduct operations in Southern Persian Gulf

8 Oct: Brief stop for fuel off Ras Al Kaimah

8 Oct: FORD helicopter fired on from Rostam Oil Platform; No Damage

8-10 Oct: Escort USS RAFF

11-12 Oct: Join Earnest Will transit 87-011

13-19 Oct: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf

20-22 Oct: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-012 from Kuwait to Straits of Hormuz


26-28 Oct: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-013 to Kuwait

29 Oct - 1 Nov: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-014 from Kuwait to Gulf of Oman

2-4 Nov: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-015 from Gulf of Oman to Bahrain

5-7 Nov: At anchor SITRAH for upkeep, provisions and liberty after 50 days underway

8-16 Nov: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf

13 Nov: CNO Visit

17-19 Nov: Inport Bahrain

2-28 Nov: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf

23 Nov: FORD helicopter, Lonewolf 42, sights and destroys mine

28 Nov: FORD helicopter, Lonewolf 42, sights and destroys second mine

28 Nov - 1 Dec: At anchor off Kuwait

2-5 Dec: Escorted M/V Courier from Kuwait to Gulf of Oman

6-7 Dec: Patrol Gulf of Oman in company with USS ELROD

8-12 Dec: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-020 from Gulf of Oman to Kuwait

13 Dec: Transit to Bahrain

14-19 Dec: Inport Bahrain

20-22 Dec: Conducted Earnest Will transit 87-021 from Bahrain to Gulf of Oman

23-25 Dec: Patrol Straits of Hormuz

26-27 Dec: Transit Straits of Hormuz to Northern Persian Gulf

28-31 Dec: Conduct operations in Northern Persian Gulf
FORD began the year having completed all basic test, certifications and inspections required of a new ship. Inport and at-sea training periods during the first half of the year concentrated on advanced training exercises required to achieve proficiency in all mission areas. Effective administration and organization was demonstrated in every area during a highly successful command inspection by Commander, Surface Squadron ONE. Operationally, FORD performed equally well as an Orange Force Unit during READIEX 87-2 and the subsequent Battle Group Evaluation. Her participation as on-scene commander and support platform for numerous air assets during an actual search and rescue mission drew praise from both Navy and Coast Guard commanders.

Major milestones were consistently achieved with professionalism and high standards. Aviation Facilities Certification was granted without the benefit of the normally scheduled Technical Assist. The exceptional Aviation Assist Visit was upgraded to a full Aviation Readiness Evaluation. Supply Department received its best evaluation ever in completing a no-notice Supply Management Inspection (SMI). FORD's performance during the SMI led to qualification for both the NeY and Best Ships Store awards. A port visit to Mazatlan, Mexico provided the crew with a much needed break during this period.

On 1 March 1987, FORD shifted from COMSURFRON ONE to Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. Command of the FORD changed on 23 May 87 when CDR J.D. Price relieved CDR J.F. Eckler. RADM R.A.K. Taylor, COMCRUDESGRU ONE was the principal speaker at the Change of Command ceremony.

In recognition of the growing Naval presence in the Persian Gulf, FORD was scheduled in mid-June to deploy on 17 August. The final two months were demanding as the ship completed a myriad of pre-deployment tests and preparations. Two successful standard missile firings were conducted at the Pacific Missile Test Center. A scheduled two week training availability in San Diego ultimately included a restricted maintenance availability, highly successful ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment, completion of TWA and ASW Phase III team trainers as well as several pre-deployment threat and intelligence briefings. An extremely successful Combat Systems Readiness Test was marred only by the discovery of faulty elements in the sonar. Repairs to the sonar necessitated offload of all ammunition and drydocking at Todd Shipyard in San Pedro. The drydocking, repairs and subsequent ammo onload were professionally carried out and FORD deployed on 17 August with no CASREP's and M-1 in all mission areas.

For the deployment, FORD embarked two SH-60B helicopters with HSL 45, Detachment 2. The transit to the Middle East was completed in company with USS THACH (FFG-43). Port visits during the transit included: Pearl Harbor, for briefings by CINCPACFLT and NAVCENT staffs; Subic Bay, for a short maintenance availability and modifications to the helicopters; and Singapore for fuel and liberty. Following a brief stop for fuel in Columbo, Sri Lanka, FORD joined the Middle East Force, as a member of the Joint Task Force Middle East.

Enclosure (3)
Following turnover with the USS JARRETT (FFG-33) in the Gulf of Oman on 26 September, FORD completed three months of near non-stop operations in support of the Middle East Force. Duties included patrols throughout the Persian Gulf, escort of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and U.S. merchants, support of U.S. minesweeping efforts and surveillance of the Northern Persian Gulf. During this period which included 52 consecutive days underway, the crew stood port and starboard Condition I watches. Flight operations, involving embarked and other service helicopters, averaged nearly 10 hours per day. Highlights included FORD's participation in seven Earnest Will escort missions, the sighting and destruction of two mines by embarked helicopters and a visit by the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Trost.

The year ended with FORD underway in the Northern Persian Gulf conducting surveillance of Iranian and Iraqi operations and supporting U.S. minesweeping efforts.